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Programme of activities for the International Year for People of African Descent

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

Page

III. Contributions received 2

A. Member States 2

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III. Contributions received

A. Member States

Dominican Republic

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In order to commemorate the International Year for People of African Descent, the Ministry of Culture of the Dominican Republic created a commission to design and execute a programme of activities regarding people of African descent.

In July, a book on San Juan Bautista and Sarandunga Bani by Dagoberto Tejeda Ortiz was published and distributed; plaques were installed in memory of people of African descent; a walkthrough of the route in memory to people of African descent was coordinated with the department of cultural tourism; and a conference about the spiritual leader of people of African descent, Liborio Mateo, was led by historian Robert Cassa Place in the National Archives. The members of the committee for the International Year also participated in an initiative of the global foundation for democracy and development.

In August, a mass and presentation of musical groups of African descent will be held, and commemorative plaques will be unveiled to publicly recognize people of African descent.

In September, the international Liborio Mateo festival will take place; a monument to commemorate the death of Lemba will be inaugurated; a discussion will be held on the contributions that people of African descent have made to Dominican society; and a new edition of *Gaga Dominicano* by the anthropologist Jung Rosemberg will be distributed.

In October, an awards ceremony on the contributions of people of African descent to Dominican Republic society and an essay contest on Liborio Mateo will take place; a round-table debate will be held on the Boca de Nigua rebellion; along with a presentation of musical groups of African descent, in coordination with the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo. Arrangements will also be made to request that national congress declare 30 October the day of Dominican people of African descent.

In November, a floral offering will be made for Mama Tingo, the Afro-Dominican figurehead of the peasants' fight for land rights, and a conference will be held about her at the monument at the entrance of the town of Yamasa. A national seminar will be held on the presence and heritage of people of African descent in Dominican Republic society, as well as an event with music and gastronomy of African descendants, to be held at the national office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the Dominican Republic. The festival of San Miguel de Eneroliza will take place in the Mata los Indios community of Villa Mella.

In December, the work presented in the essay contest on the contribution of people of African descent in Dominican Republic society will be published and the festival of Sarandunga will take place in the village of Bani.